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cipher messages by high-powered stations capable of trans-Atlantic communication;

Now THEREFORE it is ordered by virtue of authority vested in me by the radio Act of August 13, 1912, that one or more of the high-powered radio stations within the jurisdiction of the United States and capable of trans-Atlantic communication shall be taken over by the Government of the United States and used or controlled by it to the exclusion of any other control or use for the purpose of carrying on communication with land stations in Europe, including code and cipher messages.

The enforcement of this order and the preparation of regulations therefor is hereby delegated to the Secretary of the Navy, who is authorized and directed to take such action in the premises as to him may appear necessary.

This order shall take effect from and after this date.

WOODROW WILSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE.

CIRCULAR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES WITH
REFERENCE TO LIABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN FOREIGN COUN-
TRIES OF PERSONS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES

Issued August 14, 1914

The Department of State has recently received numerous inquiries from foreign-born persons residing in this country as to whether they may be compelled to perform military service in their native lands and as to what penalties, by way of fines, confiscation of property, or imprisonment in case of return, they will incur if they fail to report to the authorities of their countries of origin for military service. Some of the inquiries refer to persons who have obtained naturalization as citizens of the United States, others to persons who have made declarations of intention to become American citizens, and still others to persons who have taken no steps toward acquiring American citizenship. Misconception and confusion concerning this matter appear to be current.

The United States is not a party to any treaties under which persons of foreign origin residing in this country may be compelled to return to their countries of origin for military service, nor is there any way in which

persons may be forced into foreign armies against their will so long as they remain in the United States.

The Department can not undertake to give authentic, official information either, in general, as to the requirements of the military service laws of foreign countries and the penalties provided therein for evasion of military service, or, in particular, as to the status and present or future liabilities of individuals under such laws. Information of this kind must be obtained from officials of the foreign countries concerned.

The Department issues printed circulars concerning the status in their native lands of naturalized citizens of the United States, natives of certain European countries, and these will be furnished to interested persons upon request. It is specifically stated in these circulars that the information contained in them is not to be considered as official so far as it relates to the laws and regulations of foreign countries.

The United States has concluded treaties of naturalization with the following European countries: Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, the German States, Great Britain, Norway, and Sweden. Copies of these treaties are to be found in "Treaties, Conventions, etc., between the United States of America and Other Powers" (Government Printing Office, 1910), and separate copies may be furnished by the Department upon request. Under these treaties the naturalization of persons concerned as citizens of the United States and the termination of their former allegiance are recognized, with the reservation, in most of them, that such persons remain liable to trial and punishment in their native lands for offenses committed prior to emigration therefrom, including offenses of evasion of military duty. The United States holds that no naturalized citizen of this country can rightfully be held to account for military liability to his native land accruing subsequent to emigration therefrom, but this principle may be contested by countries with which the United States has not entered into treaties of naturalization. The latter countries may hold that naturalization of their citizens or subjects as citizens of other countries has no effect upon their original military obligation, or may deny the right of their citizens or subjects to become naturalized as citizens of other countries, in the absence of express consent or without the fulfillment of military obligations. More specific information as to the Department's understanding of the laws of these countries concerning nationality and military obligations may be found in the Department's circulars mentioned above.

It is important to observe that an alien who declares his intention to

become a citizen of the United States does not, at the time of making such declaration, renounce allegiance to his original sovereign, but merely declares that he intends to do so. Such person does not, by his declaration of intention, acquire the status of a citizen of the United States.

W. J. BRYAN.

INSTRUCTIONS TO DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICERS OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA ENTRUSTED WITH THE INTERESTS OF FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS AT WAR WITH THE GOVERNMENTS TO WHICH SUCH
OFFICERS ARE ACCREDITED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, August 17, 1914.

To the

*Diplomatic and Consular Officers
of the United States of America.*

GENTLEMEN:

You are instructed, in assuming charge of the subjects or citizens and the interests of a foreign power at war with the country to which you are accredited, to bear in mind the general usages of nations in relation to the functions exercised by you upon such occasions.

In the first place it is important to recall that the care and protection of foreign interests in both peace and war is based upon the consent of both foreign governments concerned. The consent, having been freely given, may as freely be withdrawn by either, and as a consequence you must exercise the extra duties imposed upon you with candid impartiality.

In the second place, the arrangement contemplates the exercise of no official function on your part, but only the use of unofficial good offices. You are not officers of the unrepresented government. A diplomatic or consular representative of the United States can not act officially as a diplomatic or consular representative of another power, such an official relation being prohibited by the Constitution of the United States. But apart from the fact of legal disability the relations of the foreign governments concerned necessarily imply personal and unofficial action. The state of war existing between the country to which you are